THE COMIC READER #31

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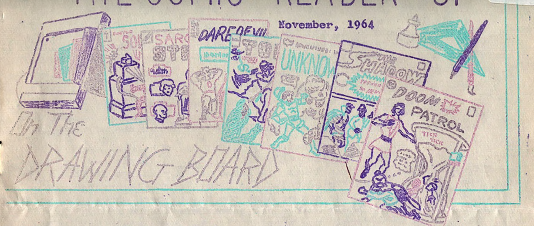


SON OF VULCAN. "John Mann, a crippled war correspondent is judged by the Roman gods in the great hall of Olypus. Vulcan, the god of fire, comes to his aid and becomes his godfather, hence, we have the "SON OF VULCAN" First issue will be on sale the beginning of February."

KORAK goes bi-monthly with the March issue. The title of the 24 page lead story is "The Lair of the Dragon"...finds lost city-endangered by prehistoric beasts....

WORLD'S FINEST. The Aug. issue will have a parallel-world story, in which Superman and the Batman are evil, and the Kents are crooks, and Batman's father was Tom Wayne, cat burglar.

SUPERBOY. The March Superboy features "Duel of the Superboys". One has strength, flying, super hearing; the other has super-breath, super vision, and invulnerability.

SECRET ORIGINS. The new Secret Origins will feature origins of Aquaman, the Atom, Robin, the JLA, and the Flash's masked identity, plus the life story of Superman. It seems that Jack Schiff may edit this one alone as he is doing most of the work.

NEWS FROM E.C. Recently a fan asked Mr. Gains if they planned to publish comics if they continued to sell. His answer was - No, but however, we may reissue the old comic material in paperback books.

FLASH. In an upcoming Flash cover, the two Flashes vs. the Shade. This must be the foe of the old Flash.

DON RICO. Stan Lee told one fan that he is pretty sure that Don Rico, who will script for Dr. Strange, is the same one who once illustrated the original Daredevil, Sgt. Spook, etc.

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADEMY OF COMIC BOOK FANS & COLLECTORS
PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY GLEN JOHNSON, BOX 126, CROWNPOINT, NEW MEXICO 87313

DOOM PATROL. In the next issue, there will be two stories: "The Nightmare Fighters" and "The Chief 'Stands' Alone". Sharp-eyed readers will discern Bob Brown's talented handiwork in one of the yarns. He pinch-hit for Bruno Premiani, who was briefly down with pneumonia.

DOC SAVAGE has returned. He is being published in pocketbook form by Battam books. At present there are three titles out: THE MAN OF BRONZE, THE THOUSAND HEADED MAN, and THE METEOR MENACE. The stories are written by Kenneth Robeson and are reprinted from DOC SAVAGE magazines of the '30's.

DAREDEVIL/HUMAN TORCH, by Steve Keisman, I met Wally Wood at pro artist Larry Ivie's house in Manhattan yesterday. Wally is displeased about Daredevil's costume. If Stan likes his ideas, he may change it. / Wally also said that he wouldn't mind doing the Human Torch (in Strange Tales) in his own way or style. He stated that the Human Torch should be drawn like one. The panels should have a hot atmosphere around and in the panels. To do this Wally would use a bright light (which would be blended in with bright colors) and used to blind anyone who dares stand before the Torch. A mixture of misty or dusty black and bright red and orange reflection would be appropriate for such a strip. It is something new in comics and it might be effective if given a chance. I would like to see Wally on the Human Torch. How about you? ((Wow...I'd love to see him do it.))

CAPT. ATOM. It seems Charlton might be willing to reprint the Original Steve Ditko Capt. Atom art. I hope all fans are writing in suggesting they do this. What do we have to lose?/ This was sent by Patrick J. Masulli, editor of the Charlton Comic Group. He has really beefed up Charlton's line of comics. A direct quote from Masulli, "Someday I shall get in touch with, and cooperate more fully with all the Fanzines."

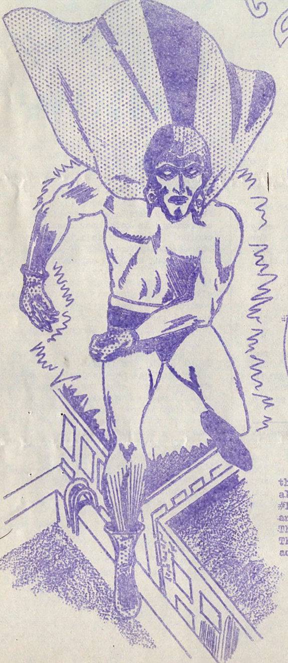
FANTASY & SCIENCE-FICTION. The Nov. issue carried a story by Harry Harrison, an ex-comic artist, about comic books. Names such as Joe Kubert and John Giunta were mentioned.

CREEPY. On the stands on Oct. 25, will be a comic magazine entitled Creepy. Art by Ivie, Frazetta and Jack Davis should appear in this issue. There will be no code restrictions because this is a magazine.

News Credits: Jerry Pritchett, Murray Boltinoff, E. Nelson Bridwell, Steve Kelez, Jerry Bails, Russ Manning, Pat Masulli, Bill Wilson and Steve Keisman. The prize this issue goes to Bill Wilson. Also news from Paul Leiffer.

BUCK ROGERS in the 25th CENTURY designed to become the most sought after item in fandom---a limited numbered editions. 68 pages completely photo-offset in black & white two color covers. This contains the first 98 daily strips, starting January, 1929. $5.00 per copy post paid. Mailed flat in a mailing envelope. Order from: EDWIN APRILL, JR., 5272 W. LIBERTY RD., ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN, 48103.

2 OF THE BEST



SHELDON MOLDOFF was, perhaps, the greatest comic-book artist of all time. To many, SHELLY IS the #1. The SPECTRE was the most unique and exciting hero of the Golden Age. The SPECTRE is #1 for many fans, too. The glory of comics has not been acheived until both of these favorites are back...and why not together!

BRING BACK THE SPECTRE—
BRING BACK SHELLY—
BRING BACK PERFECTION!!!

To the READERS

OPINIONS expressed within the pages of TCR are not necessarily those of the editor. If you don't agree with something written in TCR, don't only tell me, but the person you disagree with, also.

ZINE EDITORS. Remember to send Jeremy Barry a review copy of your zine. In exchange for an issue you will receive a review in his "The Ego Crusher".

MANILA ENVELOPES. It seems that most fans don't care to spend the extra 5¢ to have TCR arrive in mint condition. If you like, you may send manila envelopes, but if you do, place a 5¢ stamp of your own on each envelope to cover cost of heavier mail.

ADVERTISING IN TCR. From now on only half page ads will be excepted for ads for other fanzines. I believe that a full page is too much, and TCR is only a newsletter. The ads must be put on masters, and the cost for a half page ad, for the time being will be only one dollar. Full page ads for comics you want or wish to sell can be had for $2.00 until circulation grows larger.

ADDRESSED ENVELOPES are no longer necessary when ordering TCR, but I cannot take the time or use my money to send a reply unless you do send an a.e. for each issue. If you do, you are almost certain to receive a reply to any question you have.

TCR #31, published and edited monthly by Glen D. Johnson. TCR is a non-profit monthly amateur fanzine published for the enjoyment of comic fans. The cost is 25¢ per issue, and 20¢ per issue to supporting members of the Academy. Back issues are available, at regular prices, except #26 is incomplete and sells for 5¢. There are no issues of #27 left. Send a 9 inch addressed envelope for back iss.

Contributors for this issue:
Jeremy A. Barry - Zine review
George Pacinda - Spectre illo. & item.
John McGeehan - Tarzan news
Paul Rybarczyk - Front page illo.

don't you know?

that COMIC WORLD #6 is out. Don't you know that Glen Johnson has a complete analysis of the 7 Soldiers of Victory, the DC group of heroes from LEADING COMICS in this issue? Surely you must realize that this issue also carries Tom McGeehan's complete index of the ERB characters in both American and British comics? What with an article on the horror comic phenomena of the early fifties, along with an expanded length INFORMATION CENTER (that's the reader-ship feature which attempts to answer any and all questions dealing with any phase of comicdom), crammed with interesting and unusual facts of significance for every fan, this is a real bargain.

But perhaps you didn't know that COMIC WORLD (the fanzine devoted to the principle that any subject worth writing about is worth covering in depth, and in detail) sells for only forty cents per copy (50¢ if you want a mint copy sent flat, in a mailing envelope). And of course we should mention that within its full 50 pages, this issue contains not only these fine top notch articles, but the usual columns and features, with one of the fullest and most interesting letter columns you will find. So, now that you know all this, why haven't you ordered yet? Send to
Robert Jennings, 3819 Chambers Drive, Nashville 11, Tenn. (37221)

Copies of #3 and #5 are still available at these same prices.

THE EGO CURSHER
BY
JEREMY BARRY

VOICE OF COMICDOM #2(20¢ or 5 for $1.00-offset-Marty Arbunich, 60 Gladys St., San Francisco , Calif. 94110) A new monthly newsletter has appeared. Although it is listed as #2, it is really the first issue. Number 1 was FANTASY HEROES' HANGOUT. VOICE OF COMICDOM contains four large size offset pages, utilizing the front and back pages for news, and the inside pages for comic strips. The news this time concerns a visit by the Green Hornet to San Francisco this summer, a report on the World Science Fiction Convention in Oakland, and a couple of interesting features on comic artists, and The Sandman. Ten comic strips debut in this issue. It's hard to tell which are the good ones at this time; the strips need time to develope. However, artists well known to comic fandom include Ronn Foss, Mike Vosburg, Bill White, Bill Dubay, and Rudi Franke, and you might care to see how they handle strips. This is a promising publication, and it will be interesting to see how it developes in the future.

CAPA-ALPHA #1 (Jerry G. Bails, 22529 Karam Court, Warren, Michigan 48091) Strictly speaking this is not a fanzine, yet it is the product of amateur comic fans. It is in fact the publication of "Comicdom's first Amateur Press Alliance," and the whole operation is being engineered by Jerry G. Bails. You cannot buy K-alpha. In order to get a copy of each issue, you must first join the organization, and then contribute either two or four pages of your own material to each issue. Since membership is limited to 50 members you must supply enough copies of your own material (already printed) to the editor so that each member will receive it. Here are some examples of material published in the first mailing. John McGeehan discussed the problems of distributing comics in his town, as well as reviewing a Big Little Book, and indexing the Zorro comics, etc. Paul Gambaccini just gossips about comic related material; Al Kuhfeld comments on the Academy elections; Jerry Bails provides a list of scripts that Otto Binder did for DC comics; Howard Keltner contributes a checklist of TOP NOTCH COMICS; and Richard Kyle throws in his interesting and mature ideas on some of the Marvel Comics. This is just an idea of the sort of material you can write for K-alpha. To get better ideas of the organization, any one interested should contact Jerry Bails at the address listed above, and include an s.a.e. for his convenience. He'll be happy to send you all the pertinent information.

SHAZAM ANNUAL (Dickie Anderson, 1651 W. Foster Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60640) This publication sells for 60¢, and contains reprints from the first two issues of Shazam plus some new material. It is not strictly speaking a comiczine, but does contain a liberal sprinkling of comic slanted material. "Listen You Crooks" by Jim Harmon discusses the radio shows depicting the adventures of the Shadow, Green Hornet, Sherlock Holmes, and others. Don Glut takes four pages to discuss Joe Kubert's TOR comics in a manner which could have been more interesting; Roh Haydock plunges into the Superman serials; and Otto Binder writes on his career as a comic book writer. The latter is of historical interest to chroniclers of the comics. Haydock's Superman articles is just part I of two. The second part is in SHAZAM #3, which is still available for 50¢ from the same address as

the Annual. There is much more in the Annual, and you might enjoy reading about the career of Jimmy Cagney among other things.

COUNTDOWN #3 (35¢-ditto-Jim Rossow, 906 Beale Street, South Bend , Ind. 46616) This issue is quite a disappointment after #2. Not that it's bad; it just doesn't fulfill the promise of improvement at which #2 hinted. The feature article comparing John Carter with Adam Strange was rather disappointing. For some obscure reason I had expected revelations of momentous importance. The article contains none, with the result that I ended reading it with a 'so what' attitude. The other feature of note consists of long letters from six girl fans including their photos. They discuss what they like about comics, and other sundry interests. You fellas who have been wondering where all the gals are now know. Jim Rossow has been cornering them for himself! Go give him some competition. But first you'll have to buy COUNTDOWN to get their addresses.

FAN TO FAN #4 (25¢-ditto-Bob Butts, 719 Pierce Street, South Bend, Ind. 46616) In his third issue Bob announced a Captain America article. He has to apologize for its absence in #4. In previous issues Bob has had to make excuses for announced articles which do not appear. I suggest that such apologies are unnecessary. If the editor refrain from announcing in advance what he 'hopes' to publish in his next issue, he cannot disappoint anyone should he have to omit something, nor will he have to apologize. The only time an editor should announce the lineup of an issue is when he has all the material in his hands. When he makes such announcements based on the hopes of featuring the material mentioned, he is asking for trouble, and risks disappointing people who order the issue anticipating the article announced. Issue #3 has one redeeming feature (in addition to good printing and a fine letter column), and this is a seven page article covering the whole Quality Comics Co. career. The article is no more than a cursory survey since many comics and characters cannot possibly be adequately covered in the amount of space allotted. For those who know little or nothing about Quality Comics, this article is an enticing introduction. It makes one hope that someday each of the Quality comics will be covered in separate articles. The rest of this issue is mediocre except for a 'humorous' strip illustrated by Keith Greene, and supposedly starring Bob Butts and Jim Rossow. Unfortunately the result is completely lacking in humor; in fact it is completely stupid and downgrades the zine.

COMIC ART #5 recently arrived in my mail box. The editors claims that they don't want any publicity, and that they already have enough subscribers. This is unfortunate since it is one of the best written fanzines around. I suggest the editor print 1000 copies on an offset process so that comicdom can be satisfied. I also suggest that they don't send me any bombs for making the above suggestion. Sending bombs through the mails is a crime!

Paul Gambaccini has suggested that no zines up for consideration in the 1964 Alley Awards should be reviewed in TCR #32, but be held up until the next issue. So be it.

END

KORTANA #1

Devoted to origional fiction, art, and articles with a sword and sorcery format: Welcoming any and all contributions pertaining to such.

Spirit Reproduced.

Cost: 45¢, mailed flat in a manila envelope; $1.70 per year.

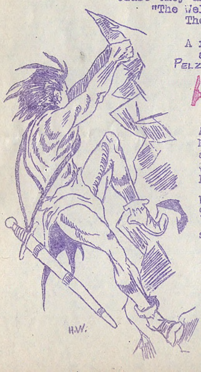
FEATURING: IN THIS ISSUE

"Seigneur Palace" by Victor B aron. This is an interesting tale, quite different from Victor's usual fare. At first glance, the plot and situation seem familiar. But don't hold your breath 'cause they aren't.

"The Well of Chaos" by Howard Waldrop, a tale of The Wanderer.

"Dark over Sharon" by Clint Bigglestone.

A report on Pacificon II by Paul Moslander and Clint Bigglestone. Art by Waldrop, PELZ [illegible], Kafka, and Harness.



AD RATES

Typed ads run 35¢ per each ¼ page requested. 4¢ per line over the determined divisions. Minimum order is ¼ page. Display ads with artwork/hand lettering are one color (purple) $1.75/page, and two or more colors $2.00/page.

All ads with artwork/hand lettering should be sent, with full payment, to Howard Woldrop, 904 West Sanford, Arlington, Texas, 76010.

Total ads per issue will run no more than six pages maximum.

ORDER FROM:

Clint Bigglestone

Editorial and subscription offices: 2615 Shannon Dr., South San Francisco, California 94081

FANZINE CHECKLIST

John McGeehan writes that he would like the help of all fan editors. John is compiling a checklist of all active fanzines. He would like all information concerning the next issue you intend to put out. If a zine will be late let him know so he can mention that it will be late. This zine list is scheduled to appear in TCR #33. Send all information to HOUSE OF INFO, John McGeehan, 405 East 5th St., Santa Ana, Calif 92701.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

"I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT BILL GILMOUR, JESSUP, PA., HAS SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED ALL PROBLEMS IN OUR PREVIOUS DEALINGS AND HAS DONE SO IN A GENTLEMANLY MANNER.--SOL DAVIDSON, DES MOINES, IOWA."

Current comics from the ACG group feature artwork by many greats of the past:

- Sid Lazarus (cartoons in Smash Feature, Quality Co.)
- Bob Jenny ("The Masked Pilot" in Popular)
- Edd Ashe (Don Winslow, Commando Yank, for Fawcett)
- Johnny Craig (Vault of Horror, etc. for E.C.)

Newest comicstrip on the market is "Swingy" by Jan Green - gag comic concerning a teen-aged girl. Along with its syndication comes a series of "Swingy" records - by Duke Ellington.

On The Entertainers, Bob Newhart presented a "Clark Kent" sketch, in which he receives the wrong suit from the cleaners.

ACADEMY NEWS

...Paul Gambaccini, ~~Ex-~~ Secretary

THE COMIC READER's official title is "The Official Newsletter of the Academy of Comic Book Fans and Collectors(which I will abbreviate ACBFAC)," and, although news scoops in the pro field are welcomed by all, let's not forget the first and foremost function of TCR. In this vein, I hope to present all Academy news herein as part of my job as the newly-elected Executive Secretary. And for you, let's remember that the lettercol of TCR is always open to interesting comments on any aspect of fannish endeavor.)

First: the Alley Ballots---the final Award ballots---will appear in the next issue, barring unforeseen difficulty. The ballots will be free with the issue. Don'T fail to reserve this issue of TCR with Glen. Any fan or pro may vote; one does not have to be a Supporting Member. Speaking of Supporting Members, Supporting Memberships for 1965 will be payable beginning with the Alley Ballot. Only one ballot per fan, but ballots will be available from me for 10¢ for those who (shame!) don't get TCR.

Furthering the discussion of the Awards, the fanzine category caused a bit of controversy this year among the Board members. To eliminate at least part of this confusion, all fanzines to be considered for next year's poll must be sent to the Executive Secretary. He will prepare a list containing all these fanzines. This will be the official list of eligible fanzines when comes time for the 1965 nominations. The fanzines received will be used to start an Academy fanzine library for all fans' use(all Supporting members, that is). Full details will appear in a future issue. In the meanwhile, all faneds who want their zines published after Nov. 1 to be considered next year, please send me a complimentary copy for the library(don't confuse this with my own personal copies, which I will try to keep up myself). Any editor donating past issues for the library will receive my sincere thanks.

Next comes the 1965 Comicon: By apparent agreement of most fans, the site for the first official Academy con should be New York City. Accordingly, I have appointed a con-mittee chairman, David Kaler, P.O. Box 392, Copper Station, New York, N.Y. 10003. All fans with suggestions for con activies, or those who would consider attending, contact Dave so he can gauge fannish response and perhaps predict the turnout. More details in future issues of TCR.

My thanks to all who congratulated me on my election.

To facilitate communication between Board members, I have started publication of a small regular bulletin, FORUM. To keep cost to the Academy at a minimum, Board members have been asked to donate stamps for the project. Any fan wishing to place a full-page ad in this bulletin, FORUM, should contact me.

Biol Spicer, 418-H West Stocker St., Glendale, Calif. 91202, is handling the project of a FANDOM CATALOG, to be plugged/advertised in pro comics, with ads for fanzines, fine fannish contribs on fandom, etc. I feel this should be an Academy project. Supporting this would entitle supporting members to a copy at low cost, or free. What do you think?

Anyone with suggestions on, or a desire to run, the Comic Lending Lib. write me at 8 Elizabeth Dr., Westport, Conn., 06882 The same holds for the Alley Trophies, a thorn in our side. Thanks for listening this time around. - Paul Gambaccini

TCR #31

Glen D. Johnson
Box 126
Crowpoint, N.M. 87313

GRANTS NOV 14 PM 1964 N. MEX.

TO-- Larry Herndon
1830 Highland
Carrollton, Texas
#31

* *

by John McGeehan of the House of Info.

As every Burroughs' fan knows, the plots & story line of the Western (Dell) Tarzan comics contain a mixture of the books, films, strips & writer's imagination. When coupled with the atrocious artwork of Jesse Marsh, it is enough to make one wish that the ape man's tales had never gone further than the printed word. Tarzan was the joke of the jungle in the 30's and 40's thanks to Johnny Weissmuller's portrayal of an illiterate jungle man complete with tree house, 'Boy' & a chimpanzee. Dell started out on the right track with the two one-shots and first issue of their Tarzan comic; but quickly went off course as noted in the seventh (Oct '48) issue of THE BURROUGHS BULLETIN. The article therein states that the changes commensed in the second issue of the Dell's Tarzan when he is shown talking to a hyena. The third issue brings in 'Boy' and the tree house and the fifth issue has La of Opar 'bumped off'. The High Priestess was resurrected later on as Burroughs' fans wanted; but Tarzan's Africa has undergone so many changes since. The Master himself would do well to recognize the place.

With such material on the market, all Burroughsdom gave three cheers when the 1st issue of Charlton's JUNGLE TALES OF TARZAN hit the stands. The artwork isn't equal to Hal Foster's and the tales don't follow ERB's to the letter; but even I can tell that Mr. Glanzman's work is far superior to the doddlings that Marsh gets paid for. It is not that Marsh can't do better, but rather a case of him working for quantity(pages & yankee dollars) and to heck with quality.

The perfectionist will point out the discrepancies, such as showing the baby Tarzan wandering outside the cabin which is not true to the book---nor in the explanation that in wandering so, he found his father's knife in the sand; since he found it year's later in the cabin. They'll only be mentioned as a matter of fact with no real complaint intended, tho; since after reading 'ink wasters' for 12 years, Charlton's Tarzan is like manna from heaven.

It is hoped by fans that Western will soon raise the quality of their Tarzan and bring it up to the level of JUNGLE TALES; but as long as the comic circulation and sales stay up, I'm afraid that it is more in the line of wishful thinking than it is a probable happening. What is more likely is that the courts will decide Charlton has violated the registered trademark laws and JUNGLE TALES OF TARZAN will be legalized out of existence!

* *

COMING IN ISSUE #32 OF TCR ——

- RED RYDER - especially drawn for TCR by Fred Harman.
- A large "INFORMATION CENTER" by Bob Jennings.
- Original STEVE DITKO Art.
- ALLEY BALLOTS.
- TWO pages of PHOTO-OFFSET, plus art by Raymond Miller, Howard Keltner and much more.
- Guaranteed 22 pages.